

of those blossoms, or vitiate the quality of the future fruit raised from such potatoes.

When we consider the great variety in the growth and kind of the potatoe, and the mixture of good with the predominance of bad in those varieties, which we see exemplified annually in our markets,—when we consider the frequent instances of deterioration in the early blue nose of this Province, and when we contemplate the powers of judicious cultivation, which has converted the sour crab of the forest into the golden pippin, and the rough almond into the melting and delicious peach, we see at once a wide field open for ingenuity and inquiry in the improvement of the potatoe. Much has already been effected since its first introduction, but much more may still be accomplished in discovering and improving good kinds, and in discouraging the growth and sale of those inferior qualities which form the principal article of nourishment for so large a proportion of the human species. This improvement can be accomplished by proper observation and experiment, and by the growth of potatoes from the seed in the apple, and the careful selection of the best kinds for future planting. But as we have already exceeded our intended limits, we must postpone our observations with some suggestions upon this very interesting subject for a future number.

HORTICULTURE.

The Cultivation of Asparagus.—This vegetable delicacy is imported to this city every year during the season of it, from Boston; and although when it arrives, it is generally injured, still it is sought and purchased with eagerness: the importation is a reflection upon our gardens, for the plant grows well even in St. John with all its disadvantages of climate. Asparagus when once laid down continues productive for many years; nor does it require half the care usually be-

stowed upon it. It may therefore be made one of the most lucrative beds in the garden of the Horticulturist. Asparagus requires a deep rich soil; a rich alluvial is an excellent soil for it. The ground should have a rich coat of good dung *trenched in*, and also a coat of very rotten dung digged into the surface. The beds should be four feet wide, with two feet wide alleys between them. Three rows of two year old plants, which can be bought from a nursery man, are placed in drills ten inches apart, made by the hoe; the roots being spread out right and left and covered carefully with loose earth; the whole being afterwards smoothed by the rake. The plants should be placed so deep as to permit the crowns to be covered with two inches of fine earth, and the roots ought to be let down to their full extent in the ground in an open and expanded manner. The roots should be planted early in the spring, and during the following summer all that is requisite is to keep the beds clear from weeds. The roots should be planted in dry weather, and after they are planted, they may be well watered to quicken their growth. When the stems have died down in the autumn, they should be cleared off, and we recommend them to be burnt, and the ashes strowed over the bed. The surface of the bed should be stirred up with a fork, taking care not to go deep enough to injure the roots. The beds may then be covered for the winter with a coat of short decayed litter, and over this a little earth may be thrown from the alleys. In the spring this litter and mould may be raked off and digged into the alleys, which forms a spring dressing; this autumn and spring dressing continued every year afterward. The shoots should not be cut for eating until the 4th year, or the 2d year from the planting of the two year old roots. When roots cannot be easily procured the seed may be planted a reasonable depth, and observe the same distances. Several seed may be planted in each